

For Private Circulation.

REPORT OF AID
GIVEN TO
DESTITUTE MOTHERS AND INFANTS
IN
1894

We testify to the need of this charity, and believe that the money given to it will be faithfully and judiciously expended.

W. L. RICHARDSON, M.D.,
Physician of Boston Lying-in Hospital.

CHARLES P. PUTNAM, M.D.,
Physician of Mass. Infant Asylum.

EMMA L. CALL, M.D.,
Attending Physician N. E. Hospital for Women.

REPORT

FOR

1894.

We find it necessary to begin each report with a brief statement of our object and methods, since charities are often not perfectly understood, except by those immediately engaged in the work.

Our primary object is to assist a mother to keep her infant in her personal charge, and by temporary aid to help her to become permanently self-supporting, when (without such help) she might be obliged either to give her child up for adoption or place it at board where it might perhaps be neglected. This includes, as a secondary object, some supervision of infants. The mother is our first interest; but we think we assist her best by helping her to faithfully care for her child.

Married and unmarried mothers are equally included in this charity. The only condition of receiving help is that a mother shall love her infant, and desire to keep it with her and work for it.

The principal characteristics of our work are as follows:—

1. We are not a society. Our active working force consists of three persons, who give to it the larger part of their time. Working as private individuals, they are able better to enter into personal relations with those whom they help. There is also the advantage of being free to adapt themselves to the peculiar needs of each woman assisted, who is herself regarded as an individual, and not as a member of a class.

2. The work is done without an institution. However necessary a building and board of officials may be for some charities, we think that we work to better advantage without these appliances; and we are also able to accomplish more, with less expense, than if we had an establishment to maintain.

3. The help given in money is intended to be temporary, and to place each individual in a position where she may become self-supporting as soon as possible. Some of our mothers receive but little help in money, others *none*; but each has what she needs of advice and assistance.

From the beginning of our work, twenty-one years ago, we have emphasized the point that our mothers are helped as *mothers*; and we never speak of an unmarried woman as a "fallen woman." This brings into our relation with her a wholesome atmosphere; and, without denying or disregarding the fault, it is not dwelt upon, nor is she oppressed with the feeling that she is set apart as a member of a degraded class. Is it not in accordance with right principles that any one who "falls"—into *any* sin—should immediately resolve to *rise* again? Let no one remain "fallen" a moment longer than can be helped. To place a well-meaning young girl, anxious to do right and to retrieve her character, in a position where she is constantly reminded of her fault and has no opportunity to make progress, seems to us not in accordance with the principles of Christianity.

In the report of the New England Conference of Charities held in October, 1894, one person present favors the plan of placing every unmarried mother who needs assistance in an almshouse for two years. Our experience leads us to believe that better results are attained by following a method quite different from this. Our aim is to make each mother self-supporting as soon as possible. Only in a few exceptional cases do we think it best for a woman with a young infant to be placed in an almshouse.

It will be noticed that the mothers whom we assist are not

depraved women ; and our aim is to strengthen the character by a method which will cultivate self-respect from the habit of steady work, surround the woman with wholesome influences, give her an object in life, and thus educate and develop the higher nature.

In this education the infant is her best teacher, giving a motive for work, and training her in habits of unselfish devotion. Long residence in an almshouse would have the effect of weakening rather than of strengthening, and would not induce—indeed, would have a tendency to destroy—the habit of self-dependence, which is so important an element of character.

The tonics which we have found most beneficial are *work* and *hope*. It is quite possible for a woman of moderate capacity and willing disposition to earn her own support and that of her infant. There is so great a demand for domestic service in country places that a good home is frequently offered to one who will make an effort to learn, and will try to please her employer. It has even been a matter of surprise to us to find, now and then, a family willing to receive a very young girl, untrained, and ignorant of any part of housework, but willing to be taught. A more competent woman can usually earn \$1.50, \$2, sometimes \$2.50 a week. In every case the infant is received with the mother. It has a good effect upon her to find that she is of value and her services prized in the family where she is employed ; and in many cases the baby is much loved by the employers, and cherished as if it were a child of the family.

It is sometimes assumed that a mother, if unmarried, will almost as a matter of course feel the care of her child a burden, and desire to be relieved from the charge, looking upon it as a painful duty. Such has not been our experience. Probably a great deal is due to the influences which surround a mother during the first weeks of her child's life. A large proportion of the mothers whom we help show from the very first much love for their infants, and a strong desire to care for

them personally. Many with whom the maternal instinct is less strong at first become much attached to the child after a few weeks. These need only a little encouragement to confirm them in the resolution to care for and support the infant themselves. We deprecate, therefore, the expression of opinions implying that it is a burden and a punishment for a mother to care for her child, when in a great number of cases separation would cause her suffering, besides doing her harm by removing her best motive and incentive toward an upright life.

We often receive from some kind lady a note requesting us to "call as soon as possible" on a young woman whom the writer wishes to recommend to us for help. In most cases we cannot do this, not mainly on account of the trouble or time required (although that might become a serious consideration as our work increases), but for the following reasons:—

1. A family receiving such a visit may regard it as an intrusion, and with justice. They have not themselves asked for help or advice; and it often happens that the person who writes the request assumes that our advice and help will be acceptable, when, in fact, the family prefer to manage their own affairs.

2. And, even where this feeling does not prevail, to take the initiative places us in a false position. For us to seek out the beneficiary and intimate that we have come to offer help immediately gives her the position of judge. If she accepts help, she feels that she does it as a favor to us; nor does she understand that she is under obligation to keep any engagement made under those circumstances. She considers it her part, not ours, to impose conditions; and she hesitates to agree to anything we suggest, her state of mind leading her to say, "I am not willing to do this" and "I cannot possibly do that."

Very soon after we entered on this work we perceived the importance of *beginning* the connection with every woman in the right way and on the right basis; and so for many years

we have made it a rule that applicants for help must first come to us, and this method has had the best results. It does not apply, however, to those whom we meet for the first time in a hospital. There our acquaintance begins, not with an abrupt offer of help, but in a simple, natural way, with a few kindly words and promise of another visit, leading to a nearer relation.

Another point is that harm is done by spending much money upon any one. It is for this reason that we discourage having board paid for a patient for a number of months or even weeks. Idleness has an unwholesome effect, both physically and morally; but, quite apart from this, the mere fact that money is spent freely has sometimes a demoralizing effect.

Only long experience makes it possible to understand and meet the difficulties of such work as this. National traits, habits of deception, temptations unknown to those whose lives have been guarded, ignorance in regard to hygienic laws, love of dress and amusement,—these are only a few of the points which come up for almost daily consideration. Sympathy not injudiciously displayed, advice suited to the patient's comprehension, motives set before her which she can understand, some innocent outlet provided for the natural craving for change or amusement, commendation and blame applied at the right moment,—that is, *when they will do good*,—all these are important elements of education.

From letters received during the year we select the following. Those marked No 1 were from a young woman whose child was ill with whooping-cough, and we were obliged to send the mother and infant both into the country to board until the baby recovered.

Another of our mothers, who was ill during the year, was pronounced, on examination, to be in the first stages of consumption. We were fortunate in procuring her admission to the Sharon Sanitarium, where she was much benefited by a stay of ten weeks, and was able then to return to her situation.

One of the young women taken on our list during 1894 was ill enough during the summer to need hospital treatment. She might have been admitted free to a good hospital in Boston, but her child could not be received with her ; and, rather than be parted from him, she went to the Tewksbury Hospital (connected with the almshouse), where the mother and infant were received together. This probably saved the child's life, as there is much risk in separating a young infant from its mother during the summer months.

I.

Dear Miss —,— Your letter kindly received, and many thanks for your kindness to me. I think — is improving, and for the last two nights has slept better. He still coughs a little. I am feeling some better, and am told I look better since I have been out here. I am quite comfortable here, and the food is good and plenty of it. I am trying hard to do right, but am liable to make mistakes, as I am but human.

There is not a great deal of reading matter here. They take a weekly paper, and I have the *Companion*. I would like the book you spoke of, if you please to send it, and thank you very much for your kindness. I read some every day.

Mrs. — is a very nice woman. I like her much, and she is very, very kind to both — and myself. The family are going to Lake — on July 4, and — and I go, too. I believe I have answered all your questions.

I am sorry I did not write you before. We have been to the office every day, thinking we should hear from you. — is quite well now, but has not got all his teeth yet. I still give him the salt bath every night, and he is growing stronger. We are all ready to go whenever you say. Now the hot weather is over, I hope — will be well. He is sleeping nicely nights, so that will give me a chance to rest ; and I feel very grateful to you for what you have done for me and — this summer, as I realize that I should have had a much harder time than I have already had if it had not been for your kindness to us, as it has taken all my time to attend to —.

I like my place very much. The work is not hard, and I am very thankful to you for your kind help to me when in need of a friend. I was very uneasy when I left you the other day that I had not thanked you enough. I have just been writing to my sister in England, and told her of your goodness to me and the baby.

From yours very gratefully.

(The following letters are from a woman who took a wet-nurse's place, keeping her own infant with her.)

I must try and answer your very kind letter, which I was so glad to receive. I am quite well, and am getting along nicely. The baby is well, too. He has got six teeth. Mrs. —'s baby is getting along nicely, too. It was very thin and sick when I began to nurse it, but it is smart and very fat now. Mrs. — says she never saw such a change in a baby before. I like Mrs. — very much. It (the work) is pretty hard, sometimes; but I am satisfied as long as I have my baby with me. There is Mr. and Mrs. — and seven children, but they help me quite a lot. I thank you for your kind advice, and I will try and do my best. I have not spent any money, only to get some clothes for my baby.

(After going to a new place in the autumn.)

Dear Friend,—I received your kind and welcome letter. I am quite well. The baby is pretty well now; he has had whooping-cough, but he is better now. He can walk around (holding by) the chairs now: I think he will soon walk alone. I should like very much to have some *Youth's Companions* or any books that you think fit to read. I don't read very much, unless it is on Sunday or in the evening. I sit with Mrs. E. until she goes to bed. She is much better than she was when I came, but she cannot do any work yet. I am quite contented here. I have a good home, and they are all very kind to me and the baby. Mr. — got him a high-chair the other day; and he can sit in it at the table now, and it is easier for me.

Dear Friend,—I received your letter, and thank you for the money. I think it is very kind and good of you to send it to me. . . . I like my place

very much. I am quite well: the baby is well, and is getting fat. There is only three in the family. Mrs. — has been very sick, but she is able to go around a little now. She is a very nice lady. They are all very kind, and help me all they can. They bring in all the wood and water, and Mr. — helps cook. I do the washing and ironing, but it is not hard. I have a nice comfortable room. Mr. — always makes the fire in the morning, so the kitchen is warm when I get up. I have plenty of time to look after my baby; and, if I am doing anything and he is fussing, Mrs. — takes him in her room, and keeps him with her until I am through my work. In the afternoons I don't have much to do, and I can sit down and sew.

From — to her friend Miss —.

4.

As I promised to write to you to tell you how I liked the place you got for me here in New Hampshire, I have not had a chance to write before, so please excuse me for not writing before now. I like here very much. It is a nice place. I am satisfied here.

Yours respectfully.

5.

My dear Madam,—I take great pleasure in writing to you, to thank you for your kind and welcome present, and also for your kindness towards me when I was in need of it. Mrs. — (the woman who takes some of our patients to board) was very good to me: she was just like a mother to me; and I like the Infant Asylum very much.

(It must be remembered that a woman who goes to the Massachusetts Infant Asylum as wet-nurse keeps her own infant with her at the asylum.)

6.

Dear Miss —,—I received your kind letter a week ago, and was glad to hear from you. I hope you will excuse me for not writing sooner. I am still in A., and doing well. I like the C. family very much. They have been very kind to me and to the baby. My work is the cooking, washing, and ironing, and things in the line of housework. My spare time is in the afternoon and evening. My pay is \$1.50 a week. The baby is fifteen months old Friday. She is a very healthy baby. I feed

her on oatmeal in the morning, and at noon I give her mashed potatoes and lots of milk, and for supper bread and milk. I shall come in and see you the next time you are at your office.

7.

Dear Friend,—I received your letter, and was very glad to hear from you, and know that you do not think me ungrateful or unfeeling for all your kindness to me; for you have been my best friend since my mother died. I never had what I call real friends till you helped me when I had nothing or nobody. You got me a good place to live with my baby, and they are very kind to me here.

I received your letter with the money in it Saturday, and I cannot express my thanks to you for it. I can go in to see you any Thursday.

You have been so kind to my baby and me that I cannot thank you enough. My baby has never been sick a day since he was born; and I have got a very nice place here; and I think I will stay here another summer. This is all I can think of to tell you now.

Yours sincerely.

8.

I now write to say that I have received from you a money order for \$5.00. I thank you for it just the same, but I don't want you to do for me what might do some one else good. I am earning a half-dollar more (a week) than I have done. They never scold or fret at me. Mrs. — likes to have me call her Aunt F. I go to meeting every Sunday with them: they go to Friends' meeting. I hope I shall see you this week; for you could stay all night. I try to take care of my eyes: I have not read evenings. B. (her little girl, five years old) is well grown and tall.

9.

I have been in this place now three weeks, and I like it very much. The family is very nice, and they are making everything pleasant and homelike for me; and I think I shall stay as long as they will want me. My baby is growing, and still continues to keep her health; and the family like to have her very much. I thank you a thousand times for your kindness to

me, and shall try to do my best at all times. I am growing stronger every day, and have not known what it is to be nervous for a long time.

Sincerely yours.

10.

Dear Madam,—I now write a line, thanking you for your kindness in offering to get me a boarding-place to take a rest; but I can go to my uncle's instead, and save that much to help some one else, thanking you just the same. I am going away to-day (from the Massachusetts Infant Asylum). I can't take much time for rest. I will go to work just as soon as I get a good place. I have answered an advertisement this morning as nurse girl. Thanking you again for your kind offer to help me, I am, very gratefully and very respectfully, yours.

11.

Dear Friend,—I trust I can call you friend, for you were one to me in time of need; and I could never forget your kindness at that time. I will tell you about my place. It is very pleasant here. I wish you could see what a beautiful place I have got. Mr. — is very kind to me and the baby. I could not have found a better place anywhere else. Remember me kindly to Mrs —: tell her I have a beautiful home. I will close this little note, hoping you will answer it. I should like to hear from you very much. Yours in haste, but lovingly.

12.

Dear Madam,—I know you will be surprised to receive a letter from such a distance. I am going to ask you to please find a place for me to go to work with my baby: she is two years and seven months old. I was at the Infant Asylum in Jamaica Plain for two years and three months; and I think that Miss — (the Matron) will recommend me if you want it.

Last August my sister, who was very sick, sent for me to come and take care of her. There was no one to do anything for her, so of course I left my place and came down here. Two weeks ago my sister died; and of course there was nothing here for me to do, so I must get back to work before the cold weather sets in. I am going to try and be in Boston by next Monday, if possible, and would be very grateful if you could get me work. I thought that I would write you before I would get there, so that you would have time to find out about me if you think it necessary.

Dear Miss —, I guess you think I am very ungrateful, not writing you before, and you so kind to me. I am very grateful to you, and I will try and see you the first Thursday next month. I think I will be able to return part of the money. My little boy is well, thank God. I am still at Mrs —: she treats me as good as ever. Excuse this note, I am so tired. Thanking you for your kindness, I remain yours respectfully.

Dear Mrs. —, I take the time to write to you at last. I am sure you were wondering why I did not write before. Mrs — seems contented with me, and I feel (happy) with her.

I am lonesome a little for Boston, as I know so many there. Dear Mrs. —, I was glad to get your welcome letter. Mrs. — read your letter to me, and I was glad to hear your name again. Dear Mrs. —, I hope your cold is better. If you see Mrs. —, tell her I was asking for her, and remember me to Miss —. No more at present from your grateful and absent —.

P.S.— I tell A. your name, so that she will know who I am writing to. I want her to know her good friends.

Dear Miss —, I have delayed writing you longer than I had meant to; but, as I have been busy, you will excuse me. I like the family very well; and I get the two dollars a week, as was promised. They all love my baby, and he is no trouble whatever.

There are a lot of old numbers of the *Youth's Companion* in the house. Do you know where they could be sent, so that some one would enjoy reading them?

Dear Miss —, Do you remember — for whom you did so much nearly two years ago? I left C. last June. I had intended to make you a call, telling you of my success and thankfulness; but I left unexpectedly, and had no time to see you.

I cannot express to you how glad I am that I found such a friend as you in my time of trouble, and how utterly thankful I am that I did as you wished me to.

My little son is enough to make me more than happy. I wish you could see him now. He is nearly two years old, and is the same strong, healthy-looking child.

This winter I am living with my sister-in-law, who is a widow with one little son of eight years. She is preceptress of the high school of this place, and I am her housekeeper; but in June she leaves here for her home in —, and then I must start out for myself again.

Do you think I could find something to do similar to the work I had before (to keep — with me)? I would deem it a very great kindness if you can help me in this way again. With very many thanks; and a very happy new year may this be to you who make others so happy.

17.

I suppose you have almost forgotten me, but I often think of you. I was — — when you knew me, now I am Mrs. —. I was married about two years ago. My little boy is quite a boy now. He was eight years old last November. If they have any children at the Infant Asylum now that they would like to send out to board, I would like to take two next spring or summer. They would have a good home with me. We have got a cottage down to the beach. My husband built it last summer. My boy enjoyed it very much, and so did I; and I thought, if I had some other children down there, what a good time they would have. My home here is in —, twenty-five miles from Boston. My husband is an American, and a good man to me and my child. It is my whim to take the children to board. You may be sure they will be well cared for, so you can think this over. If you think me capable, send me instructions, and I will do all as near right as possible; but, whether you intend sending me any children or not, please write and tell me how the asylum gets along and how Dr. — is, and how you are and Mrs. — and Miss — also. Thanking you for all you have done for me and hoping to hear from you soon, I will close with love from — and myself.

MARY R. PARKMAN.

LILIAN FREEMAN CLARKE.

MRS. W. C. WILLIAMSON.

MRS. JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

MOTHERS ASSISTED DURING 1894.

Old cases (continued from 1893)	48
New cases (first taken in 1894)	167
Whole number assisted in 1894	215
Married women (new cases)	83
Unmarried women (new cases)	84
	<hr/> 167
Married women (old cases)	13
Unmarried women (old cases)	35
	<hr/> 48

NATIONALITY OF OLD CASES.

(Married.)

Irish	8
German	1
Colored	1
Scotch	1
Not recorded	2
	<hr/> 13

(Unmarried.)

Irish and Irish-American	18
American	6
British Provinces	6
Swedish	2
Scotch	1
English	1
Colored	1
	<hr/> 35

NATIONALITY OF NEW CASES.

(Married.)

Irish and Irish-American	29
American	20
British Provinces	12
English	5
Swedish	3
Scotch	1
Scotch-American	1
Colored	1
Spanish	1

Dutch	1
Finnish	1
Syrian	1
Not recorded	7
	<u>83</u>

(Unmarried.)

Irish and Irish-American	35
American	12
British Provinces	13
Swedish	5
Colored	9
English	2
German	1
Finnish	1
Jewish	1
Scotch	2
Scotch-American	1
Not recorded	2
	<u>84</u>

American	12
Other nationalities	72
	<u>84</u>

AGES OF NEW CASES.

(Unmarried.)

16 years old	2
17 " "	3
18 " "	7
19 " "	9
20 " "	12
21 " "	7
22 " "	9
23 " "	7
24 " "	6
25 " "	2
26 " "	1
27 " "	2
28 " "	3
29 " "	1
Over 30	2
Not recorded	11
	<u>84</u>

RECEIVED DURING 1894.

On hand Jan. 1, 1894 . . .	\$629.17	Miss Anna C. Lowell . . .	\$100.00
James M. Barnard . . .	5.00	Arthur T. Lyman . . .	50.00
Miss E. H. Bartol . . .	25.00	Mrs. G. von L. Meyer . . .	100.00
Miss Mary A. Bigelow . . .	5.00	Miss Laura Norcross . . .	5.00
Mrs. S. Parkman Blake . . .	10.00	The Misses Paine . . .	10.00
Mrs. E. B. Bryant . . .	10.00	Mrs. John Parkinson . . .	10.00
Miss Cora H. Clarke . . .	5.00	Miss A. Q. T. Parsons . . .	5.00
Mrs. Eliot C. Clarke . . .	10.00	F. H. Peabody . . .	20.00
Miss Harriet Clarke . . .	5.00	Mrs. D. L. Pickman . . .	25.00
Mrs. C. P. Curtis . . .	20.00	Dr. W. L. Richardson . . .	50.00
Mrs. James C. Davis . . .	10.00	Miss Marian Russell . . .	25.00
Mrs. Otto Dresel . . .	20.00	Mrs. R. S. Russell . . .	10.00
William Endicott, Jr. . . .	100.00	Mrs. F. R. Sears . . .	25.00
Estate of Lidian Emerson (by Miss Helen A. Legate) . . .	5.00	Mrs. Knyvet W. Sears . . .	15.00
Mrs. George Faulkner . . .	10.00	Mrs. F. C. Shattuck . . .	25.00
Mrs. W. H. Forbes . . .	25.00	Mrs. G. B. Shattuck . . .	10.00
Mrs. D. M. Garrett . . .	5.00	Mrs. G. H. Shaw . . .	10.00
Miss Matilda Goddard . . .	20.00	Mrs. Henry S. Shaw . . .	10.00
Miss Harriet Gray . . .	20.00	Mrs. S. V. R. Thayer . . .	10.00
Mrs. F. B. Greene . . .	10.00	Mrs. Edward R. Tyler (\$5 for 1894, \$5 for 1895) . . .	10.00
Mrs. W. B. Greene . . .	500.00	Miss R. P. Wainwright . . .	10.00
Henry S. Grew . . .	25.00	Miss M. S. Walker . . .	50.00
Mrs. F. B. Harrington . . .	5.00	Mrs. C. E. Ware . . .	100.00
Mrs. H. N. Haughton . . .	10.00	Miss Amy White . . .	5.00
Mrs. George H. Hollingsworth . . .	5.00	Dr. Edward Wigglesworth . . .	25.00
Mrs. H. P. Kidder . . .	5.00	Mrs. J. Huntington Wolcott . . .	25.00
Mrs. T. K. Lothrop . . .	25.00		

DONATIONS OF CLOTHING.

Mrs. E. C. Butler.

Mrs. E. C. Clarke.

Mrs. George Faulkner.

Mrs. J. H. Morison.

Miss Nathalia Bent, for Sewing Circle in Canton.

Bethany Sewing Circle, by Mrs. Mason (a large bundle of clothing for infants).

Boston Sewing Circle, by Miss Loring (clothing for women and infants).

DESTITUTE MOTHERS AND INFANTS IN ACCOUNT WITH
ANNA H. CLARKE, *Treasurer.*

Dr.

To board of women	\$624.69
Board of children	450.00
Clothing for women and children	152.02
Fares and travelling	154.11
Milk and food	6.81
Advertising	122.28
Medicine	3.30
Expresses	9.25
Postage-stamps	39.61
Rent	5.00
Rewards	45.00
Printing	39.75
Sundries	118.86
	<u>\$1,770.68</u>
Balance toward new account	549.43
	<u><u>\$2,320.11</u></u>

Cr.

Jan. 1, 1894, by cash on hand	\$629.17
By subscription during 1894	1,635.00
Interest on bond	50.00
Interest on money deposited in bank	5.94
	<u>\$2,320.11</u>

We wish to explain that the money on hand at the beginning of the year does not signify that we have received more than we need, but that the subscriptions which come to us late in the year, sometimes the end of December, are the fund with which we meet the first expenses of the new year.

Subscriptions may be sent to MRS. JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE, Jamaica Plain, Mass., or to DR. C. P. PUTNAM, 63 Marlborough Street, Boston.

To prevent inconvenience, we add that the ladies who carry on this charity are not able to see applicants at their homes.

By calling at Room 48, Charity Building, Chardon Street, Monday or Thursday, 2.30 to 4.30 P.M., one of the representatives of the work may be consulted. For the present, also, one of our workers may be seen at 29 Fayette Street any Thursday, 2.30 to 4.30 P.M. (N.B. This latter address may be changed after a time.)

